Information Regarding Penalty Cancellation or Deferral of Tax Payments

We have all been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in ways that are beyond measure. I want to thank all taxpayers in Monterey County for abiding by the orders of the Health Officer and sheltering in place to stem the tide of infections in Monterey County.

As your Treasurer-Tax Collector it is my duty to collect real property, personal property, transient occupancy, and cannabis business taxes on behalf of the schools, county, cities, special districts, community service districts and libraries.

I understand these are challenging and unprecedented times, however there are currently no state laws that allow for mass payment deferral or penalty cancellation based solely on economic hardship or the inability to pay. In other words, I do not have the authority to defer tax payments or cancel penalty for this reason.

Many of you are reaching out to my office to find out what tax relief can be provided. Unfortunately, at this time, the options are limited. I continue to work with state officials to better define and seek additional relief for Monterey County taxpayers but currently I don’t have the answer that most of you are seeking.

My promise to you is to continue to work towards crafting a solution to this tax payment crisis. My hope is that I am successful in working with our state leaders to create a COVID-19 property tax payment relief program that provides much needed relief for all taxpayers.

In the next few days we will post instructions and forms to apply for all available tax payment relief and payment plans that are currently allowable by law. In the interim, please refer to the many resources and programs that have been made available for employment, financial and economic assistance by clicking here.

Thank you for your understanding, and stay well.

Mary A. Zeeb
Treasurer-Tax Collector